

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please CANCEL claims 1-14 and 18-20.

15. (amended herein) A process for preparing for cardiovascular surgery in a mammal, which process comprises

(A) providing a multichannel catheter useful for delivering extracorporeal blood to a mammal in need thereof by insertion into a blood vessel of the mammal, which catheter has a defined length with distal and proximal ends and comprises:

a central, first channel defined by a surrounding wall extending substantially the length of the catheter, which channel is closed at its distal end;

a second channel (i) extending substantially the length of the catheter parallel to the first channel but independent thereof, (ii) being integrated into the wall of the first channel, and (iii) being open at its distal end;

a plurality of openings for the outflow of blood in the wall of the catheter communicating only with said first channel;

an inflatable bladder integrated into the distal end of the catheter between the openings for the outflow of blood and the second channel distal opening;

a third channel (i) extending substantially the length of said catheter integrated into the wall of the first channel; (ii) being parallel to the first and second channels but independent thereof, and (iii) having a distal opening in fluid communication with the interior of the inflatable bladder; and

a solid flexible shaft slidably engageable into the first channel extending substantially the length of the first channel;

(BA) inserting into a femoral artery of the mammal the distal end of the catheter of claim 1 with the flexible shaft slidably engaged in the first channel to prevent backflow of blood,

(CB) positioning the catheter so that the inflatable bladder is located in the ascending aorta, and

(DE) removing the flexible shaft from the first channel to allow the first channel to be connected to a cardiopulmonary machine to pump blood into the first channel at the proximal end of the first channel.

16. (amended herein) The process of claim 15, which further comprises

(ED) inserting at least one cannula into a mammal's peripheral veins to position it so the distal open end of the cannula is adjacent the vena cava regions of the mammal's heart and the proximal end of the cannula is attached to a cardiopulmonary machine through a pump wherein the cardiopulmonary machine comprises a blood oxygenation means fluidly connected to the pump,

(FE) providing a source of oxygenated blood from the cardiopulmonary machine to the proximal end of the first channel;

(GF) providing a source of cardioplegia fluid to the proximal end of the second channel in an amount sufficient to reach the coronary arteries and reduce the heart rate;

(HG) providing a source of fluid for inflating the inflatable bladder to the proximal end of said third channel to inflate the inflatable bladder to block the flow of blood to the heart;

(IH) pumping oxygen-rich blood through the first channel and out the first channel openings at a rate sufficient to maintain the mammal's metabolism and perfusion; and

(JF) removing oxygen-depleted blood from the mammal's vena cavae regions through the femoral vein cannula.

17. (original) The process of claim 16 that further comprises performing cardiovascular surgery as needed and continuing to pump the oxygen-rich blood to the mammal at a rate sufficient to maintain the mammal's metabolism and perfusion.